Amendments To The Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33, characterized in that a period of exposure *in vivo* that induces tumor cell differentiation and apoptosis causes a smaller proportion of normal tissue cells than tumor cells or no normal tissue cells to undergo apoptosis and differentiation.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33, for the treatment of a patient having a tumor that uses the Hedgehog/Smoothened signaling for inhibition of differentiation and for inhibition of apoptosis of tumor cells.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the tumor is basal cell carcinoma.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33 wherein said compound is administered as a pharmaceutical composition selected from the group of compositions for topical, non-topical or systemic administration.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that the composition for non-topical or systemic administration is in the form of an aqueous solution.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that the composition for non-topical or systemic administration is in the form of liposomes, having said compound entrapped therein.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6, characterized in that the non-topical administration is direct intratumoral injection.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the non-topical administration is direct intratumoral injection.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that said pharmaceutical composition is in a controlled release form.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that said pharmaceutical composition is adsorbed onto a dermal patch.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that said pharmaceutical composition is in the form of a cream, an ointment, a gel or a hydrogel.

13-29. (Cancelled)

29 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the tumor cells are in a human.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said compound is administered as a pharmaceutical composition, and the tumor cells are observed during a period of administration of the pharmaceutical composition which is continued at least until apoptosis of said tumor cells is observed.

31-32 (cancelled)

33. (Previously presented) A method for treatment of the tumor cells that use the Hedgehog/Smoothened signaling for inhibition of apoptosis, comprising providing a compound that binds specifically to a receptor in said tumor cells to which cyclopamine binds to inhibit Hedgehog/Smoothened signaling, and contacting said tumor cells with a sufficient quantity of said compound to induce apoptosis of said tumor cells.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the tumor cells are in a human.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33, for the treatment of a patient

having a tumor that uses the Hedgehog/Smoothened signaling for inhibition of apoptosis of tumor cells.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein said compound is cyclopamine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. (New) A method for treatment of a patient having a tumor wherein Hedgehog/Smoothened signaling is used for inhibition of tumor cell apoptosis, comprising

administering to the patient a medicament comprising cyclopamine or a compound that exerts similarly specific inhibition of Hedgehog/Smoothened signaling as cyclopamine,

wherein said medicament is administered in a quantity that is sufficient to induce apoptosis of said tumor cells and to cause decrease of size or disappearance of tumor.

38 (New) The method according to claim 37, characterized in that a period of exposure *in vivo* that induces differentiation and apoptosis of the tumor cells causes a smaller proportion of normal tissue cells or no normal tissue cells to undergo differentiation and apoptosis.